

days between many of them and many of those who held them in bondage. It is strange, but true, that during the days of slavery there was developed, in a large number of instances, bonds of tenderest affection between master and slave. These views crowd upon us each New Year's Day, because this was the day selected by the great and good Lincoln to be distinguished above all others by the issuance of his flaming edict of Negro emancipation in the American Republic. And it was this that made January 1, 1894, a great day among the colored people of Raleigh. And, as we above said, nature seemed in sympathy with the ruling spirit that moved the thousands who once again bowed at the shrine of liberty. The murky clouds which for thirty-six hours previous had darkened the firmament, gave way to a genial sun, and the weather was all that could be wished.

Early in the day crowds could be seen in nearly every street moving in the direction of Metropolitan Hall. At 11 o'clock that spacious auditorium was densely packed by an intelligent, well-dressed and well-behaved assemblage. Among the audience were a number of white people, who seemed to enjoy the exercises throughout.

At 12:30 o'clock the officers of the day, under escort of Chief Marshal S. H. Townes and assistants, entered the hall, the entire audience rising to greet them.

The choir rendered a voluntary with fine effect. When all were seated Rev. C. Johnson, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, came forward and, in a few choice remarks, introduced the President of the Day, Rev. R. H. W. Leak.

On assuming the duties of his position Mr. Leak delivered an address of acceptance abounding in happy allusions and flights of real eloquence. He was frequently interrupted by hearty applause.

At the conclusion of the President's address, Rev. D. S. Saulter, Chaplin, came forward and offered a fervent prayer.

After the choir had rendered "Coronation," the President stated that under plans adopted by the Committee of Arrangements, funds sufficient to meet all the expenses incurred had been raised. Many had promised to contribute at the hall, and to accommodate such as felt to do so the marshals would wait on the audience.